

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Jo Bonner (R-AL) today announced the award of funding to the city of Mobile from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant, totaling \$1,920,909, is being made available through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and will be used to help the city of Mobile purchase twenty-one homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

The grant money covers 75 percent of the eligible cost of \$2,561,212 to acquire and demolish the Katrina-damaged homes, which are located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SHFA). The remaining cost will be paid by the city of Mobile and the participating homeowners.

The homes are located in the southern area of the city of Mobile, and are not contained in one subdivision. The general area is bound by Shipyard Road to the west, Interstate 10 to the north, Mobile Bay to the east, and the Mobile City Limit to the south. The property acquisition is voluntary.

"I am extremely pleased FEMA has approved this funding for the city of Mobile," Bonner said. "The purchase and demolition of these homes will allow the city of Mobile to remove the damaged properties, move the residents out of harm's way, and reduce the health and safety risks."

The grant is part of FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which assists states and local communities in implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures following a major disaster declaration. Among its goals, the HMGP aims to prevent future loss of life and property from disasters, implement state or local hazard mitigation plans, and provide funding for previously identified mitigation measures that benefit the disaster area.